

Review

# THE IMPOSSIBLE MOVIE: MEGALOPOLIS

Burak Batu Tunçel, @batutuh21 (ig)

After waiting in the rush line for 3 hours, I was one of the lucky people to get into the IMAX screening of *Megalopolis* on its second day at TIFF. What I can say is, everything you heard about *Megalopolis* is true. It feels like it was made in a parallel universe. Switches from film noir aesthetics to Ancient Rome period piece vibes while the characters' mannerisms are Shakespearean and the exteriors look both contemporary and futuristic at the same time. The sheer base of familiarity we get from any movie – a plot – seems absent for certain periods and we only get these Verhoeven-esque, over-the-top satiric sequences mish-mashed together. Everything is really artificial yet likely deliberately so, as it is as the subtitle suggests, "a fable". Then halfway through, a guy dressed as a reporter enters the theatre in real life and starts interviewing Adam Driver's character in the film. Before the confusion diffuses, we get hit by a split-screen montage separated to 3 panels, and things still get crazier and trippier after that. For the whole runtime, Coppola is reflecting on his life and what he'll leave behind. The insistence of Driver's mad genius character to embrace the past to learn the future echoes what Coppola's doing here. Pay attention to the baby's name in the end! Is it bad, is it brilliant? It's impossible to tell. Yet, it's certain that this will be the most monumental late-career-work-by-aging-director-given-full-creative-control for the next 50 years.



Review

 Paul Schrader

September 14 at 5:59 PM ·

TORONTO. When I first started going to Toronto in the 60s it was like a hip Boston. It's now become the Manhattan skyline with Los Angeles sprawl. Many of the high rises that have been built in the past thirty years are indistinguishable from each other--like Sim City replicants.

News

## ACTIVISM AT & AGAINST

This isn't meant to be a comprehensive view of the topic.



TIFF platforms art that is difficult to platform. Two features and one shorts collection from Palestinian artists premiered at the festival: *From Ground Zero*, *No Other Land*, and *To a Land Unknown. Sudan, remember us* is a document of the doomed 2019 revolution. They are powerful works uplifting and immortalizing the disempowered in the SWANA region. Ukrainian film was also featured heavily: documentaries *U Are the Universe* and *Viktor*, and Polish drama *Under the Volcano*. But TIFF didn't come out unscathed. Platforming "both sides" invites derision from "both sides". At the Opening Night screening of the world premiere of *Nutcrackers*, anti-RBC, pro-climate, pro-Palestine protesters disrupted opening remarks from TIFF CEO Cameron Bailey. Protesters would also criticize the screening of Israel-funded film *Bliss (Hemda)*. In the latter half of the festival, *Russians at War*, a documentary co-produced by Canada & France, was criticized as "pro-Russian propaganda", inciting protests in front of TIFF venues and comments from Deputy PM Chrystia Freeland and Ukrainian diplomat Oleh Nikolenko.

In a constructive spirit, I will mention the 17th annual Toronto Palestine Film Festival is beginning September 25th. They collaborated with other groups to form a counter-programming initiative here at Innis Town Hall Sept 5 - 8. The Toronto Ukrainian Film Festival comes back for its 3rd year in April 2025.

Images courtesy of TIFF, YY Man, and Joy Xu

## CINCU UPCOMING



WTF Wednesday campus horror-comedies on the 18th  
FFF Where Is the Friend's House? on the 20th  
FFF The DIRTIES on the 27th  
Analog filmmaking workshop on the 29th  
Apply to be a Camera Stylo editor by the 25th  
Submit to the next ZINZZU by the 30th

Catch up: [@CINSSU](#) on Instagram

the cinema studies student union zine

# ZINZZU

*all about...*



hello, welcome to volume 1 issue 0 (1:0) of ZINZZU (yes we're numbering these like this, so the inaugural issue from march would be 0:0). this is our little dip in the water before diving in this year! this 4-pager is all about tiff24 from cinsu execs, who for the first time in recent memory got a full deck of press passes. this itty bitty issue continues a LOT of information. what new films to look out for, what news came out of tiff this year, tips on how to navigate your next festival... have something to add? you can submit to our next issue now! more info on our instagram @cinsu

thanks to assu for printing this issue

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we asked cinsu execs what you should watch out for this film season, and why you should join tiff next year at its 50th anniversary. all these tiff features will be released in the coming months or so. unsure what suits you? try to match your profile with ours! even an anti-modern cynic like me had something to enjoy...

## ALEX

Vice President External

*my favourite films are...*

CHUNGKING EXPRESS, THE VIRGIN SUICIDES, NOWHERE

*what i love in a film is...*

anything that's heavily stylized, character-led, and a little absurd

*best of tiff 2024:*

my favourite so far is andrea arnold's BIRD! it's not doing anything new genre wise, but switches from analog to digital in such a poignant way to build a portrait of a young teen girl. i hope nykiya adams is a star after this.

*my tiff experience:*

i've been using my press pass to do red carpet interviews! DIEGO CALVA is lovely, JENNIFER LOPEZ very unsurprisingly walked right by without acknowledging me, and JACOB ELORDI is just as hot as you'd imagine in person.

## YY MAN

Special Events Coordinator

*i think what makes a good film is...*

Sincerity. It's easy to tell if a lot of care has been put into the production of a film. I appreciate films that come from the heart.

*best of tiff 2024:*

My favourite so far is Sue Kim's THE LAST OF THE SEA WOMEN! I also recommend John Hsu's DEAD TALENTS SOCIETY for its creative worldview and Rachel Morrison's THE FIRE INSIDE.

*my tiff experience:*

A lot of crazy things have happened in the past few days... But my favourite experience so far happened at a VISIONARIES panel, where I got to thank PETE DOCTER (director of Monsters Inc., Up, Inside Out, and Soul) for making films that I grew up with.



# VICKY HUANG

Camera Stylo Editor-in-Chief

*my taste is imprinted by...*

THE GOLDEN AGE (1930) and THE INEXTINGUISHABLE FIRE (1969). I gravitate towards films that celebrate the profane.

*best of tiff 2024:*

My judgment is slightly skewed by the excitement and spectacle of the festival. So far, my standouts are APRIL, SCENARIOS, THE SHROUDS.

*worst of tiff 2024:*

I'd throw tomatoes at screens displaying NIGHTBITCH, EMILIA PEREZ, and THE END.

## JO

Promotions Director

*films i recently enjoyed...*

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES, THE FLY, and AMERICAN FICTION

*best of tiff 2024:*

There are so many amazing films at TIFF and I'm so grateful to have been able to attend! Some of my favourite moments were watching the world premieres of WE LIVE IN TIME, EDEN, and HERETIC!

## SOREN STANCLIFF

Programmer

*my approach to film is...*

as an auteur theory authoritarian. I love late-style career retrospectives like CRIMES OF THE FUTURE or BOY AND THE HERON, Mid-Career Masterpieces like MISHIMA or 8 1/2, and Prophetic Debuts like ERASERHEAD or THE DIRTIES.

*best of tiff 2024:*

My favorite so far is THE SHROUDS, which is a very personal, late-style companion to Crimes of the Future. I also loved OH, CANADA, which is Paul Schrader doing The Tree of Life late in his career.

## YASMINE ALM

Art Director-in-Chief

*to me, a good film...*

is a film that surprises me by making me feel or see or think something I didn't think I would experience. I'm delighted when a movie successfully manipulates me.

*best of tiff 2024:*

My TIFF24 was defined by fun. The movies that brought out the most reaction were HERETIC, FRIENDSHIP, and ON SWIFT HORSES. All inspired gasping, laughing, cheering – and one instance of heckling at an afternoon showing of FRIENDSHIP, directed at the present writer-director Andrew DeYoung.

*my tiff experience:*

Special thanks to TIFF's Media Inclusion Initiative for housing me for my first full run at TIFF. An underrated part of the festival experience is the whole world of people you meet!



## VINCE WOODFORD

Newsletter Coordinator

*best of tiff 2024:*

ANORA – Charming, even as someone who wasn't a huge fan of Baker's previous work.

*worst of tiff 2024:*

NIGHTBITCH – Adams was great but I wish they lingered on the more unconventional aspects of the story.

